

H&G MARCH 2024

THE WORLD'S DESIGN AND DECORATION AUTHORITY

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HOMES & GARDENS®

Push boundaries

THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS THAT SHAPE A HOME

DESIGN
DIRECTIONS

YOUR GUIDE TO
EXTENSIONS

AN A-Z OF
ARCHITECTS

CURVES IN THE
KITCHEN



MARCH 2024

COURTYARD

The two fragments to this house, old and new, are pronounced yet subtly linked with overlapping materials and style.

Windows, Crittall Windows.

Exterior in Off-Black,
Farrow & Ball

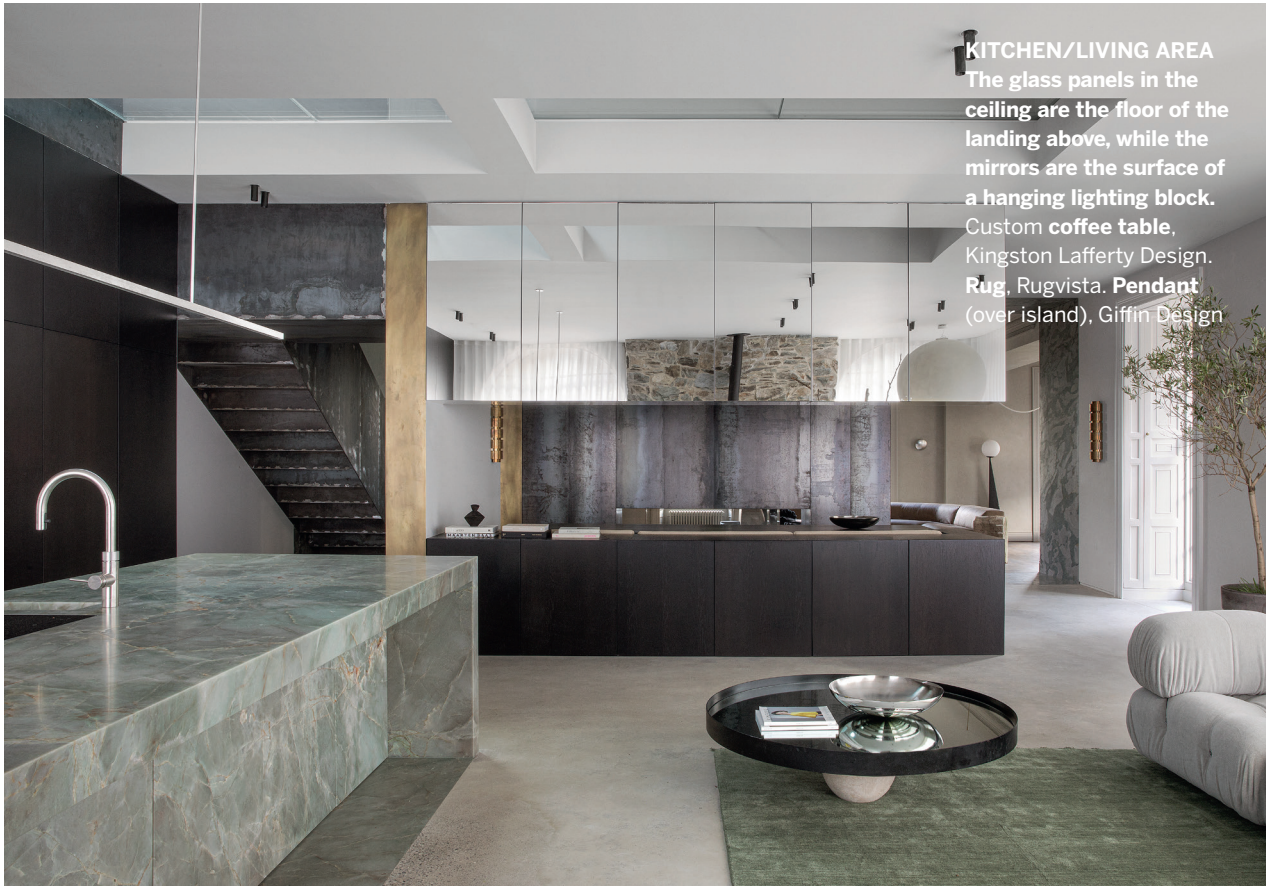
MODERN SENSIBILITY

A crumbling Georgian house that was once exposed to the elements is now an arresting home that merges the old and the new

WORDS RUTH CORBETT PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA CORSICO/LIVING INSIDE

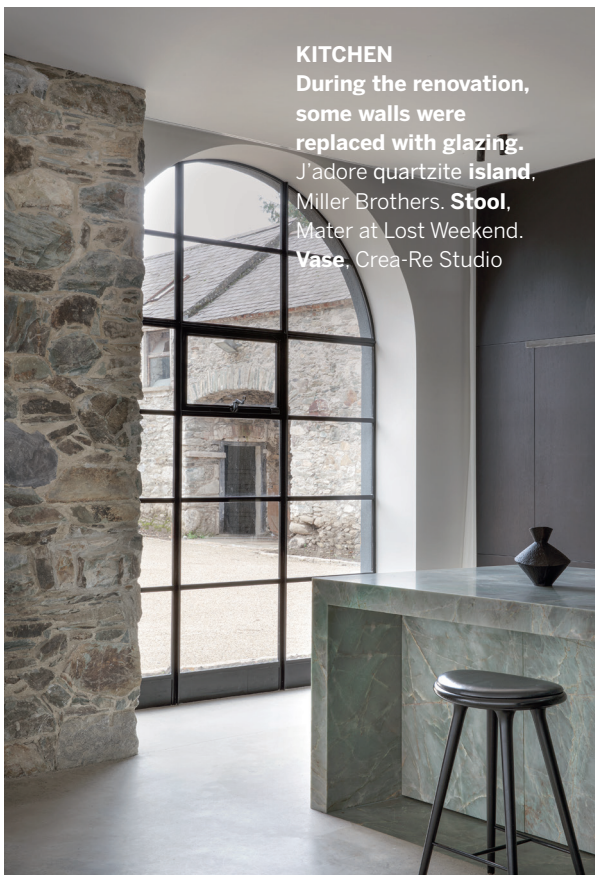


ENTRANCE HALL
 The mild steel staircase has a raw beauty that complements the stone portal it is encased in. Custom **console**, Christoff joinery. Flexible **light**, Morghen Studio. **Artwork** by Kirstin Arndt, Green On Red Gallery. Marble **portal**, Miller Brothers. Manetti wall **lights**, Eichholtz



KITCHEN/LIVING AREA

The glass panels in the ceiling are the floor of the landing above, while the mirrors are the surface of a hanging lighting block. Custom **coffee table**, Kingston Lafferty Design. **Rug**, Rugvista. **Pendant** (over island), Giffin Design



KITCHEN

During the renovation, some walls were replaced with glazing. J'adore quartzite island, Miller Brothers. **Stool**, Mater at Lost Weekend. **Vase**, Crea-Re Studio



PANTRY

Behind a hidden door in the run of units in the kitchen is this practical space



KITCHEN

The exposed stone wall brings a rustic element that contrasts with the sleek surfaces.

Blackened oak timber cabinetry doors and stainless-steel splashback, Christoff joinery. Tap, Quooker



KITCHEN/LIVING AREA

The sofa is the perfect piece on which to relax by the fire, while taking in views of the outside.

Camaleonda **sofa**, B&B Italia at Minima. Cowrie **chair**, Made in Ratio. Luna **pendant**, LampTwist



DINING AREA

Banquette seating helps to define this space in the open-plan scheme.

Custom **table** with oak stained top and steel-clad base, Christoff joinery



SITTING ROOM

A sinuous light doubles as an art installation.

Flexible **light**, Morghen Studio. Antique writing **desk**, Acquired.ie

MEET THE DESIGNER

Róisín Lafferty shares her style inspiration

FAVOURITE PIECE OF

ARCHITECTURE The Oval by Tadao Ando at the Benesse House Museum in Naoshima, Japan. The use of concrete, which dresses the building in the purest and simplest form, is something I love.

GO-TO COLOURS I did a paint collection with Fleetwood Paints. Inisbofin, an island off the west coast of Ireland rich in greenery, inspired the colour Bofin Fern. Another favourite, Old Fashioned, an amber, earthy in tone hue, evolved from drinking many a cocktail during Design Miami.

DESIGN HEROES Fiona Lynch, Vincenzo de Cotiis, Dimorestudio, Apparatus. I connect with their designs; theatrical in style, experimental materiality, brand identity as a total.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT Zoning spaces. This can be achieved through a change of material, a floor coving or a new paint colour, and can divide an area so that it serves a specific function.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Explorative, timeless, considered.

SITTING ROOM

A bronze mirrored wall cleverly conceals the TV. The fire is two-sided with the dining space (left) on the other side.

Aztec **sofa**, Montis at Minima. Concrete **table**, armand&Francine. Shaggy Labyrinth **rug**, Dusty Deco



STAIRS

The slit steel staircase leads to the ceiling-height, stainless-steel pocket doors of the main bedroom suite, to which most of the first floor has been dedicated. Manetti wall light, Eichholtz



It's a bold set of materials for a young family to navigate,' says Róisín Lafferty of Kingston Lafferty Design. 'Especially the steel staircase. But the three kids living here say it's the best house ever to play hide and seek in.'

Despite the endorsement, Róisín, who was brought in to design the interior of the crumbling Georgian house in County Wicklow, recalls that the clients hadn't anticipated the amount of work involved in such an extensive renovation. 'The property was open to the elements, so there was a lot to do. But they came to us with a very clear idea of the direction they wanted. And that was raw and industrial.'

While a less consummate designer may not have relished such an unexpected brief, it's one Róisín understands intimately. 'Industrial is an overused word that brings to mind restaurants, cafes and Tolix chairs. That look was very much of a time. What we've done here is to hone in on what "industrial" actually is, and bring it back to its true, stripped-back rawness.'

Acres of raw steel, honed stone and mirrored cubes now populate the interior, which features what Róisín describes as 'letterbox view points'. These sightlines are especially evident in the living and dining spaces, where the block of the chimney breast reflects the block of the dining bench, as well as the lighting block emanating from the ceiling. 'Whether you are standing at the island or sitting on the sofa, you have total visibility, but you still feel independent and cocooned,' Róisín says. 'The main thing was creating the right sense of proportion and a sense of place. A room needs anchors if the people in it are to feel comfortable.'

Given free rein to do as she wished throughout the interior, Róisín devised a number of arresting interjections, such as a glass floor between the kitchen

and the landing above it, and a cantilevered, mild steel block to define the dining zone. 'The clients wanted an open-plan design, but for us that needed to be very cleverly considered. Open plan can easily end up as a vast space filled with things, whereas we have created zones that instil a sense of discovery as you meander through them. The more time you spend in the house, the more you experience that.'

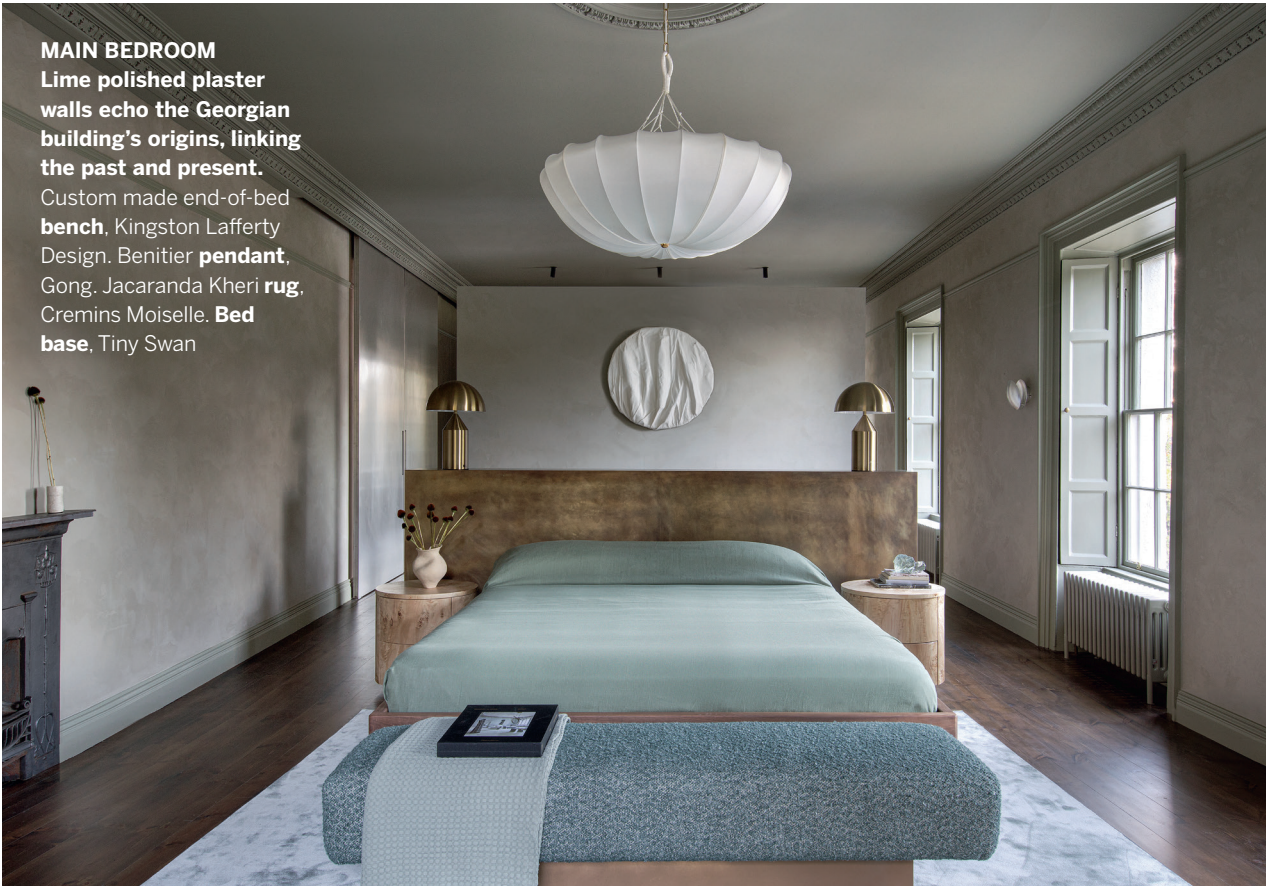
More such interjections can be seen in the main bedroom. 'We got to merge what would have been separate rooms, so instead of designing a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom, we made a series of mirrored cubes that contain the WC and storage, that didn't detract from the wonderful architecture.' The result is that one can fully appreciate the beauty of the space, the windows, the cornicing and so on, from every perspective, while it's possible to still fully circulate the room, unimpeded by extraneous fittings.

Róisín was influenced as much by what's outside the house as what was inside. 'I love the crumbling old brick and stone outhouses surrounding the main building,' she says. 'We took those earthy elements and colours and used them throughout the house, in part as a reflection of the exterior.'

The brief for a raw, industrial finish has been delivered and rapturously received. But it's refined: there's nothing glitzy about it. Róisín sites its deliberate imperfections within a very streamlined, very sharp layout as key to its success. It's a project that has brought joy to both client and designer. 'Sometimes, I ask the design team if they could have the keys to any one project, which would they choose?' Róisín muses. 'This one would definitely be mine.' 🏡

■ kingstonlaffertydesign.com

**"ALTHOUGH THE LAYOUT APPEARS OPEN-PLAN, CAREFULLY
INTERJECTED FORMS HAVE BEEN INSERTED TO SUBDIVIDE
IT TO CREATE FUNCTIONING AND INDIVIDUAL SPACES"**



MAIN BEDROOM
 Lime polished plaster walls echo the Georgian building's origins, linking the past and present.
 Custom made end-of-bed **bench**, Kingston Lafferty Design. Benitier **pendant**, Gong. Jacaranda Kheri **rug**, Cremins Moisselle. **Bed base**, Tiny Swan



MAIN BEDROOM
 A centrally inserted block divides the functions of the suite into bedroom, walk-in wardrobe, WC cubicle, dressing area and bathing area, generating spaces within a space



MAIN EN SUITE
 The reclaimed wooden floor and solid carved travertine vanity with natural jagged edges sit below a custom storage unit made from stone, brass and mirror.
 Lia **pendant light**, Kaia

MAIN EN SUITE

The shower space is situated behind the bed.

Water Lilies marble cladding for shower wall, floor and bench, Miller Brothers. Metal custom shower screen, CDS Architectural Metalwork

